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No. 47

1983 ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS

Delegates and visitors from 45 Central Pacific Conference Churches gathered in Corvallis, May 13-15, for the 21st Annual Assembly which was hosted by the members of First Congregational Church, UCC. In addition to worship ably led by Co-Chaplains Pat Ross and Jack Hall, fellowship at meal times and coffee breaks so well provided by members of the host church, inspiration so movingly shared by keynote speaker Lloyd Van Vactor, nurture provided through a wide variety of workshops, the delegates transacted a significant slate of business. This report is intended to highlight the business agenda items.

STAFF REPORTS: EDQUIST RETIREMENT

Conference Minister Don Severson reported on the mission hearings held across the Conference and called upon the conference to continue in a process to redefine its mission statement. Associate Gene Ross challenged the churches to consider the needs of families in their communities - especially the need for child care - and consider how the church's resources could be used to respond. Associate Ted Edquist, after sharing his history of involvement in the Conference since its inception, announced his intention to retire from his Conference position at the end of 1983.

BY-LAWS REVISION

On an unanimous vote, delegates approved the Revision of the Conference By-Laws proposed by the Priorities and Evaluation Committee. Major changes included: discontinuing the practice of convening a Fall Council in favor of an Annual Meeting of the Assembly and an additional meeting of the Assembly each year; changing the composition and duties of the Executive Board providing that in the future the Board of Directors will be comprised of the Conference officers, professional staff, and nine Directors-at-Large (instead of the present practice of representation from Conference Departments); a change in the process of electing Board and Committee members from the current practice of election by the Assembly delegates to appointment by the Board of Directors with the exception of the Nominating Committee which shall be elected by the Assembly. The new By-Laws will take effect a year hence. The Priorities and Evaluation Committee has been assigned to facilitate the change process.

NEW OFFICERS

The following officers were elected: Peggy Clark, Boise First, Moderator; Bill Jackson, Bethel Beaverton, Vice Moderator; Donna Parsons, Cedar Hills, Secretary (for a third term); and Scott Clements, Cedar Hills, Treasurer. In addition, 30 persons were elected to Department and Committee positions.

RECOGNIZED THE CLOSING OF PILGRIMAGE UCC

Conference Minister Don Severson reported that following a third year evaluation of Pilgrimage UCC, Boise, the decision had reluctantly been made by the Conference Executive Board to discontinue funding. That decision had been concurred in, he reported, by the BHM Division of Evangelism and Church Extension who would also cease funding. Following those decisions,

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PICTURE



ALBUM

VAN VACTOR SPEAKS OF HIS PHILIPPINE EXPERIENCE

LINDA MINES ELLIOT CHALLENGES CHURCHES TO SET GROWTH GOALS

SEVERAL RESOLUTIONS WERE DISCUSSED, DEBATED

CO-CHAPLAIN PAT ROSS

INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS

CONFERENCE MINISTER SEVETSON HONORS RETIRING BOOKKEEPER FRANCES HEIM

YOUTH CHOIR PRESENTS EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE OF "COOL IN THE FURNACE" (Recognize the bearded one? Host Pastor Greg Turner)

EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER FUND IN THE UCC

A new \$75,000 Emergency Food and Shelter Fund has recently been established by the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to provide seed money for new programs for the homeless initiated by congregations in the United Church of Christ.

We have called upon the churches to help feed the hungry and provide shelter for the homeless," said the Reverend Howard E. Spragg, Executive Vice President of the UCBHM. "We will assist them in this ministry. The question for all of us is whether to stand at the side of those who need us or simply to stand aside."

Churches interested in applying for food and shelter grants should write to:

Mr. Richard McGuire, Secretary for Missions
Relations
United Church Board for Homeland Ministries
132 West 31st St.
New York, N. Y. 10001

BORTION SUIT SUCCESSFUL

Over two years ago, the Central Pacific Conference joined forty organizations in a law suit challenging the State's limitation on paying for Medicaid abortions. In May of 1981, the law suit was filed in the Oregon Court of Appeals amidst a good deal of publicity. In December of that year, it was argued before a panel of three judges. After nearly seventeen months (something of a record), an opinion was handed down which declared invalid the administrative rule limiting medically necessary abortions.

Oregon is only the fourth state where state constitutional protections have been invoked to protect poor women in the face of the refusal of the U.S. Supreme Court to extend federal constitutional protection to them in the area of Medicaid abortion.

PLAN NOW FOR WORLD COUNCIL EVENT

Individuals who want to experience the Sixth Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC) are invited to participate in a program planned

New Booklet For Churches In Their Response To Refugees

Four church-related organizations have recently published "Seeking Safe Haven: A Congregational Guide to Helping Central American Refugees in the United States." Published by the American Friends Service Committee, Church World Service, Inter-Religious Task Force and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, this booklet has been produced to assist local congregations in providing help for Central American refugees who may be in their communities. The publication presents a brief summary of the tragic conditions existing in several of the Central American countries and then proceeds with very practical suggestions for ways in which congregations may be of assistance to refugees. Officially, the United States government refuses to recognize refugees from these countries as legitimate political refugees. Upon their detention, they are inevitably arrested and face deportation. This publication will be of considerable help to congregations as they seek to find a Christian response to this tragic dilemma confronting Central American refugees in this country.

Copies may be ordered from the Refugee Resettlement Office of the United Church Board for World Ministries, 475 Riverside Dr., New York, N. Y. 10115.

especially for them," reports Florence Coppola, staff member in the United Church of Christ Executive Offices and Moderator of the Bellingham Forum Planning Committee. The program will be held at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington, from July 23 to Aug. 1, 1983. This meeting will coincide with the WCC meeting scheduled July 24-Aug. 10 in Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Speeches, Videotapes, seminars on Assembly issues, and worship will be available to the community gathering at Bellingham. Interested persons are encouraged to attend. Information regarding housing & registration are available from:

The Bellingham Forum
World Council of Churches - Rm. 1062
475 Riverside Drive
New York, N.Y. 10115

FORMER CONFERENCE MODERATOR EDITH VAN DOOZER DIES

Memorial Services for Edith Van Doozer were held on May 25 at Waverly Heights Congregational Church, U.C.C. Mrs. Van Doozer, well known through the Conference, was Conference Moderator in 1956 and was a delegate to the 1957 council that merged the Congregational and Evangelical and Reformed Churches. She was given posthumous recognition as Church Woman of the Year by delegates attending the General Synod meeting in Pittsburgh. Edith Van Doozer was an active member of her church for some 30 years. Mrs. Van Doozer is survived by her husband Fred.

Ecumenical Forum Planned Near Assembly Site

New York (EPS - a full roster of 4,000 official participants might have meant that visitors would be turned away from the Sixth Assembly of the World Council of Churches when it convenes at Vancouver, B.C., Canada this Summer. But a special ecumenical forum in neighboring Washington state will give an additional 1,000 people a chance to participate in the once-in-a-decade gathering of the world church.

The Bellingham Forum will meet on the campus of Western Washington University in Bellingham, Wa., USA, from July 23 - August 1, the first week of the WCC Assembly. Designed by a US planning committee, the forum is intended for persons interested in sharing the ecumenical experience through discussion of the issues and attendance at certain Assembly sessions.

Videotaped highlights of Assembly events will be a daily feature at Bellingham along with worship and some 75 one-time seminar offerings.

Forum planners report that Bellingham registration now includes over 400 individuals, but stress that space is still available. For details on registration and housing costs, interested persons are encouraged to contact:

The Bellingham Forum
World Council of Churches
475 Riverside Drive - Rm. 1062
New York, N.Y. 10115
Tele. (212) 870-2533

ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS cont. -

the members of Pilgrimage had voted to disbar Pastor Bill Hawk shared with the delegates the pain involved in the decision and their gratitude for the life they had been able to share in for three years.

RESOLUTIONS ACTED UPON

The following resolutions were acted upon by the delegates: Passed a resolution endorsing and encouraging ecumenical activities and organizations. Passed a substitute resolution linking peace and justice issues. Passed a resolution calling upon Conference churches to voluntarily assess themselves \$2.00 per member to enable the full subscription of the 1983 Budget. Passed a resolution to change the formula of sharing NICD funds from the current two-thirds National one-third Conference, to a 50-50 sharing formula. Passed a resolution establishing a series of Stewardship Workshops in September 1983. Passed a resolution calling for a revision of clergy compensation guidelines. Defeated a resolution on scripture and human sexuality.

DEAR FRIENDS:

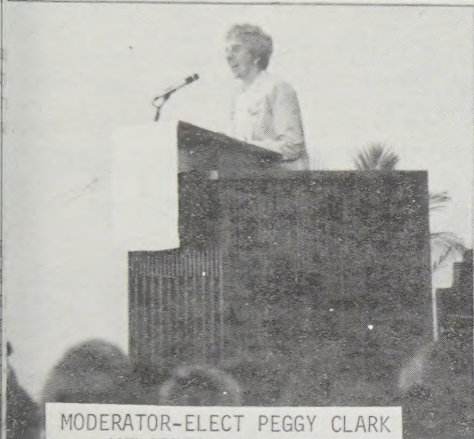
I would like very much to thank everyone for their good wishes, kind words and generosity shown me on Friday evening, May 13, at the Spring Assembly in Corvallis in recognition of my retirement on July 31 after 24 years of working as bookkeeper and secretary in the Conference Office. It was a very memorable evening for me.

These past 24 years represent a good part of my life -- and I mean that in two ways; a good portion of my life....and a very "good" part of my life filled with many memories and wonderful friends.

Frances Heim

A. D. TO END THIS SUMMER

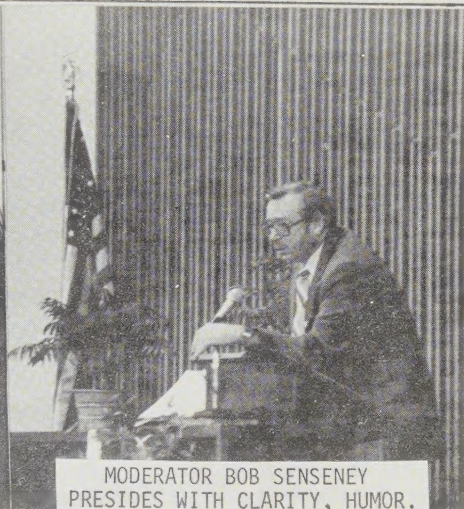
The board of directors of A.D. Publications has voted to suspend publication of A.D. Magazine with the July-August 1983 issue, report Jean Curtis and William J. Sadler, co-chairs of the select committee of A.D.'s board. The committee was created to handle the issues around termination of the magazine.



MODERATOR-ELECT PEGGY CLARK
WELCOMES DELEGATES



EDQUIST
ANNOUNCES
RETIREMENT



MODERATOR BOB SENSENEY
PRESIDES WITH CLARITY, HUMOR.



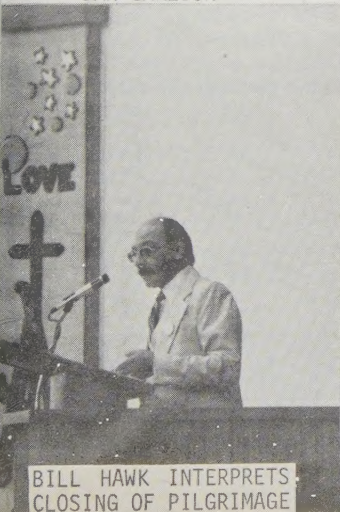
ANNUAL PRESENTATION OF
CEA AWARD. THIS YEAR TO
JAN CARLSON



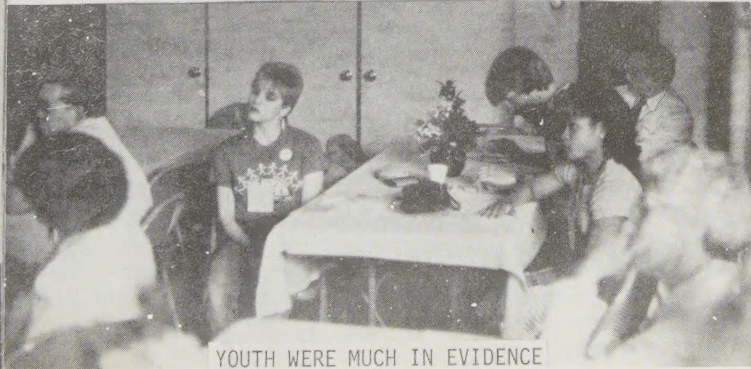
SEVERAL RESOLUTIONS
WERE DISCUSSED AND
DEBATED



LESSIE WILLIAMS
KEPT US SINGING



BILL HAWK INTERPRETS
CLOSING OF PILGRIMAGE



YOUTH WERE MUCH IN EVIDENCE

The Local Scene

First Congregational Church, UCC, Corvallis, has called The Reverend Cynthia Linder to be Associate Minister of the church. The Reverend Ms. Linder comes from University Church in Chicago where she has been serving in an interim capacity. She begins her work in Corvallis on September 1.

Serving in Ione and Condon this Summer as Summer Intern is Tom Fujita. Mr. Fujita is a student at Pacific School of Religion.

Parkrose Community United Church of Christ celebrated its 70th Anniversary on June 12 by dedicating their special anniversary gift for the New Initiatives in Church Development. Conference Minister Don Severson was guest preacher.

The Reverend Karl Vercoouteren, First Congregational Church, UCC, The Dalles, is enjoying a sabbatical at Pacific School of Religion where he is focusing on "Christology and World Evangelism." He returns to Oregon in time to direct the Laity/Clergy Camp at Camp Adams.

Welcome to the Nickersons - Nick, Jacki and children, who have arrived in Hillsboro where the Reverend Mr. Nickerson has begun his ministry.

Members of First Congregational Church, UCC, Pocatello, have been engaged in a fund-raising project to buy a gas grill for the patients of State Hospital South in Pocatello.

The New Plymouth Congregational Church, UCC, and the Fruitland Church of the Brethren shared worship and softball together on June 12. Associate Conference Minister Gene Ross was pinch-hitter for pastor Earl Traugher.

Meridian United Church of Christ, Wilsonville, will sponsor an Arts and Crafts Fair in late July. They are especially urging men to be "crafty".

Ruby Elsdon, a member of Zion United Church of Christ, Gresham, was the principal speaker at Mt. Hood Community College on June 2 when she received her GED certificate. Ruby proves that education is a life-long project. She is 72. Congratulations Ruby!

The Peace Task Force at The Congregation Church of Medford, UCC, is publishing a peace newsletter, WINGING IT. Persons interested in receiving a copy should write to The Reverend Fred Strasburg.

The United Church of Christ, Forest Grove, had a great celebration on June 26 for the 30-year ministry of music which Ralph Shumm has now concluded.

Wanda Dunn, Director of Christian Education at First Congregational Church, UCC, Salem, designed in early June after two years of committed service to the church. The church has begun a process of seeking her replacement.

Members of Bethel Congregational Church, UCC, Beaverton, not only engaged in a month-long fund campaign to benefit Barrier Free Residences, Salem, but gave the whole community a chance to contribute through sponsoring rummage and bake sale.

CORRECTION! CORRECTION! CORRECTION! The telephone number in the 1983-84 Desk Calendar for the OCLL Office in St. Louis is incorrect. The correct number is 314-621-1330.

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